

Executive Registry
60-6448/4

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Mrs. Samuel Sonenfield

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Dear Mrs. Sonenfield:

I have received and have read with close attention your thoughtful letter of August 18, 1960, raising a number of questions with regard to the Powers trial.

As you can well appreciate, many of the points on which you asked my comment, are still in the classified field, and it would not be possible for me to write you about them. Furthermore, even though the trial itself is over, Powers is still a prisoner of the Soviets and we should be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his own situation more difficult.

Possibly some day you will be passing through Washington, and I will have an opportunity to talk with you further about some of the points you raise.

At this time above all I would add is that you should take into account the fact that Powers was over a hundred days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisers, or any U.S. Embassy representative prior to the trial, that undoubtedly the Soviets had drummed into his mind what they wished to come out at the trial, and that this can be done and be effective even short of the techniques of "brain washing," as in the Korean cases to which you refer.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE 5)

Also, I want you to know that in selecting the pilots for such difficult missions, no one went out into the open market to try to lure candidates by the pay scale, which, I may add, is about equivalent to that which a chief pilot on one of our airlines receives today. On the contrary, persons whose past training and other technical, mental and ideological outlook seemed to qualify them for this job, were chosen on the basis of these qualifications and willingness to serve with full knowledge of the dangers. There never was a sought applicant for these positions.

Sharing with you fully the sentiments you express in the closing paragraph of your letter, I only wish I could be more responsive at this time, but it would not be in the interests of the prisoner or of national security to do so.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) ALLEN W. DULLES

Allen W. Dulles
Director

DPD-DD/P:JAC:mng (23 Aug 60)

Rewritten AWD:at

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Mr Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

60-6448

My dear Mr Dulles:

Are you at liberty to comment on the following observation? I have been reading the Chicago Tribune account of the ¹⁻² contract arrangement between the CIA & Lockheed Airplane Co. whereby Lockheed provided pilots, planes & maintenance, the pilots being under a civilian contract. Mr Powers was one of these, who was captured & is now claiming ignorance of the overall ~~strategic~~ ^{strategic} & what seems to me to be a basic lack of conviction about his minute but important role in our national defense effort.

I note some ~~surprising~~ ^{surprising} presentation, as reported, and

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the reports of our Korean war
prisoners who ~~no longer~~ ^{Approved For Release 2003/05/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003700060075-6} distinguish
disturbed about this "I am
a mere thinking pawn" role
expressed by this college educated
man, with Air Force training.
To me it seems to indicate
either a lack of elementary orientation
to the American goal & way of life,
or else, a deliberate & calculated
choice of personnel who have no
personal commitments beyond the
financial rewards of a well paying
job. I am distressed at the new
reports of Powers as the poor boy
victim of our system. This, of course,
is what the Russians ~~wish~~ ^{wish} to have
& the questions reflect this, & may
also be designed to elicit sympathy
for him as such. However my
question remains - is this kind
of person the best to use because,
if apprehended ~~he can~~ ^{he can} honestly
disassociate himself from every
as ^{Approved For Release 2003/05/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003700060075-6} part of the effort except that
of piloting the planes and, if

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this is true why was he provided with what was termed, suicide equipment?"

Perhaps I am critical of the contract arrangement plan which is now formally revealed. Such a contract, even with the appropriate clearances which I am sure your agency makes, might well attract persons of Powers background whom I fear lack the personal stamina when the going gets rough but who perform adequately for good pay, on routine assignments. I am inclined to favor the use of Air Force, specially qualified & paid. Knowing, as I do from overseas war service, the importance of the individual's identification with some established group & tradition.

I am a very proud & grateful American and also an imaginative one. Could you answer this when you feel it suitable. It is for my own information only. Thank you

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Samuel Sonenfield

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Dear Mrs. Sonenfield:

I am replying to your letter of August 18th on behalf of Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence.

Unfortunately for the purposes of your inquiry, this Agency is not in a position to comment upon the proceedings of the recent Powers' trial in Moscow. Nevertheless, your thoughtful comments have received careful consideration, and are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the Director

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

Attached is our proposed reply to a very thoughtful letter from Mrs. Donenfield concerning the U-2 trial and Powers' performance therein. This may be the forerunner of additional correspondence generated by the trial so before sending this reply, I thought I would get your reaction to it.

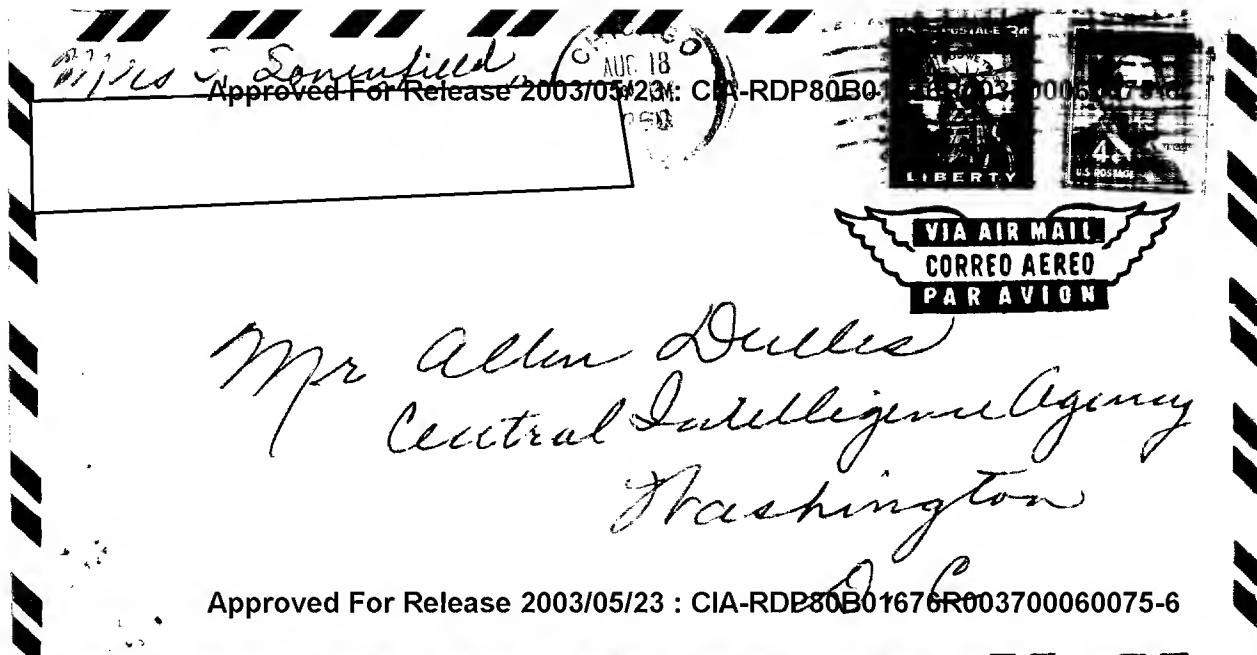


↓ FMC
24 August 60

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(DATE)

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Remarks:

Dick:

The Director asks that you look this over and check it with anyone in DPD you think appropriate, and let him know if you have any reservations about his sending this on out.

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2. FMC

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